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Level 2

Earth has lost half its trees because of humans

5th September, 2015

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1509/150905-trees-2.html>

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Please try Levels 0 and 1 (easier) and the 26–page Level 3 (harder).

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THE READING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1509/150905-trees-2.html>

There is good and bad news about the number of trees on our planet. The good news is that there are seven times more trees than we thought. Until a few years ago, scientists estimated that the world had 400 billion trees. However, a new study estimates that there are around three trillion trees. That's a three followed by 12 zeroes. There are over 420 trees for every person alive today. Dr Thomas Crowther told the BBC that this new number changes nothing. He said: "It's not good news for the world or bad news that we've produced this new number."

The bad news is that thousands of years ago, the earth had six trillion trees. Humans have cut the number of trees in half. An example of this is Europe. It used to be a giant forest. Now much of it is fields and cities. Dr Crowther said people are responsible for the loss of three trillion trees. Another 15 billion trees are lost each year because of deforestation and farmland. The scientists said this figure is "considerably higher" than a century ago. Dr Crowther warned that: "This study highlights how much more effort is needed if we are to restore healthy forests worldwide."

Sources: <http://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-34134366>
<http://www.theguardian.com/environment/2015/sep/02/scientists-reveal-there-are-3tn-trees-in-world-new-count>
<http://www.livescience.com/52070-global-tree-census-human-impacts.html>

MATCHING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1509/150905-trees-2.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. good and | a. on our planet |
| 2. the number of trees | b. changes nothing |
| 3. seven times more trees | c. trillion trees |
| 4. there are around three | d. by 12 zeroes |
| 5. a three followed | e. this new number |
| 6. over 420 trees for | f. than we thought |
| 7. this new number | g. bad news |
| 8. we've produced | h. every person alive |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|--|----------------------------|
| 1. Humans have cut the number of trees | a. of deforestation |
| 2. It used to be a giant | b. and cities |
| 3. Now much of it is fields | c. more effort is needed |
| 4. responsible for the loss | d. forest |
| 5. lost each year because | e. forests worldwide |
| 6. considerably | f. of three trillion trees |
| 7. This study highlights how much | g. in half |
| 8. restore healthy | h. higher |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1509/150905-trees-2.html>

There is good and bad news (1) _____ trees on our planet. The good news is that there are seven times more trees (2) _____. Until a few years ago, scientists estimated that the world (3) _____ trees. However, a new study estimates that there are around three trillion trees. That's a three (4) _____. There are over 420 trees for every person alive today. Dr Thomas Crowther told the BBC that this new (5) _____. He said: "It's not good news for the world or bad news that (6) _____ new number."

The (7) _____ thousands of years ago, the earth had six trillion trees. Humans have cut the (8) _____. An example of this is Europe. It used to be a giant forest. Now (9) _____ fields and cities. Dr Crowther said people are responsible for the loss of three trillion trees. Another 15 billion trees (10) _____ because of deforestation and farmland. The scientists said this figure is "(11) _____" than a century ago. Dr Crowther warned that: "This study highlights how much more effort is needed if we (12) _____ healthy forests worldwide."

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1509/150905-trees-2.html>

There is good and bad news about the number of trees on our planet. The good news is that there are seven times more trees than we thought. Until a few years ago, scientists estimated that the world had 400 billion trees. However, a new study estimates that there are around three trillion trees. That's three followed by 12 zeroes. There are over 420 trees for every person alive today. Dr Thomas Crowther told the BBC that this new number changes nothing. He said: "It's not good news for the world or bad news that we've reproduced this new number." The bad news is that thousands of years ago, the earth had six trillion trees. Humans have cut the number of trees in half. An example of this is Europe. It used to be a giant forest. Now much of it is fields and cities. Dr Crowther said people are responsible for the loss of three trillion trees. Another 15 billion trees are lost each year because of deforestation and farmland. The scientist said this figure is "considerably higher" than a century ago. Dr Crowther warned that: "This study highlights how much more effort is needed if we are to restore healthy forests worldwide."

WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student A: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

a)

b)

c)

d)

e)

f)

g)

h)

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WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student B: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

a)

b)

c)

d)

e)

f)

g)

h)
